

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughroe
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Don't Wish for Lots of Business; Have It!



Fig Leaves or Garments?

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TEXT—"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them."—Gen. 3: 7, 8.

Behold man's first great discovery of time! What a glorious achievement in his dear knowledge!

He has believed Satan's lie, promising him knowledge—"Ye shall not surely die; ye shall be as God, knowing"—and this is what it has brought him, nakedness! Lost, now, that glorious likeness of God's image in which he was created, as sung the psalmist, "Thou coverest him with light as with a garment." "Naked!" See him, in the very shame of it, betaking himself to the trees of the garden. "I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Ah, sin has brought shame to all the race. Naked still, O soul! This the sad heritage of sin bequeathed to you and me by that fallen first man—moral nakedness. With all our boasted discoveries through the centuries since, with all our progress in science and art, with all our vaunted culture, still naked. Yea, "All things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Oh, let me hide, then, from those holy eyes. But where? Yea, "Whither shall I flee from Thy presence?"

"Lo, this only have I found," declared the wise man of old, "that God hath made upright; but they have sought out many inventions." And it was the painful realization of no "hiding place" that led to the first invention—a fig leaf apron. Adam will restore with his own labor the terrible damage done by sin. And from that sad day to this, the making of fig leaf aprons has been the universal occupation: the vain attempt to patch the ruin that sin has wrought; endeavoring by religiousness, by fleshly piety, by good works, by anything and everything, to adorn the flesh for God; seeking by the work of his own hands

to cover his nakedness from the "all-seeing eye" and by his own efforts at self-improvement and self-righteousness to fit himself for the presence of God and make himself worthy of eternal life.

But, "Not by the works of righteousness which we have done, but by His mercy," for "By deeds of law shall no flesh be justified," for it is "Not of works, lest any man should boast," but "By grace are ye saved through faith."

See how Adam's miserable invention is displaced by the divine provision. The Creator, in grace, has come into the scene of sin to be a Savior, and in the very sentence of judgment pronounced upon the daring originator of sin, has preached the glad tidings of a coming Redeemer: "It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Judgment must precede glory. The judgment stroke must fall, and sin's penalty be met before grace can flow in forgiveness to men.

And now, in holy symbolism, God makes vivid His great salvation. No self-righteousness for Him, no works of fallen nature, no apron of fig leaves, but a garment—a garment that clothes completely from front to back and from head to foot. Gone are the fig leaves! Hidden the nakedness! O soul, this is for thee! A garment of God's own design and making. Nothing else can meet His righteous demands. He must provide it. You have not the material. He must make it. You do not know now.

Will He be satisfied with what His hands have wrought? Yea and amen! The only acceptable dress He knows, and the most beautiful. And I? "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation."

But do not overlook the source from which those garments are derived. They had their origin in death. Blood is their price; their color, a death-stain! Those animals must die and their blood be shed to provide this naked sinner with raiment. It is the first emergence in Scripture of the great truth of vicarious atonement, of substitutionary sacrifice—a shadow of the cross falling upon that distant day.

As I come, a naked sinner, with nothing but my sin to commend me, to Jesus' cross where He hangs in shame for me, and, bowing my head to own the righteous penalty borne for me by Him, and that my sins have nailed Him there, I leave it with His raiment upon me, and I "give thanks unto the Father which hath made me meet to be a partaker of the saints in light"—not that paradise of earth which Adam lost, but the heavenly one.

NEWS REVIEW

(Continued from Page One)

AT THIS writing the United States government has not as yet announced its decision relative to participation in the conference at Genoa. President Harding was in consultation with Secretary of State Hughes, Secretary of Commerce Hoover, Senator Brandegee, Elihu Root and others, and it was reported he had about made up his mind to send his regrets. The administration is not satisfied with the present policies of some European governments which are asking its help in the reconstruction of Europe and believes they should mend their ways. Four cardinal principles which it holds they should adopt, according to information from Washington, are: First, reduction of their excessive military establishments; second, balancing of national budgets, levying of adequate taxes, recognition of financial engagements; third, stopping the practice of issuing enormous amounts of paper money; fourth, recognition that the economic recovery of Europe is related to economic rehabilitation of Germany, which involves a just and speedy settlement of the reparations problem.

The premiers who agreed to invite the soviet government of Russia to take part in the conference at Genoa may repent their action if Lenin and his crowd carry out the plan announced in Moscow. It is said they will present enormous claims against the allied governments and the United States through the repeated attempts to overthrow the soviet regime and against Finland because it is alleged to have supported the revolt in Karelia. These claims would far more than offset the old Russian debts owed to other nations, recognition of which has been one of the chief demands made on the soviet government.

PREMIER POINCARÉ still insists that German reparations shall not be discussed at all at Genoa, but he is trying to come to an amicable arrangement with Lloyd George concerning an alliance. His plan is that the duration of the alliance shall be unlimited instead of ten years; that it be reciprocal; that the term "German aggression" include attack on the allies in the neutral or occupied zones of the Rhineland; that there be immediate discussion if there is menace on Germany's eastern frontier, and that there be permanent contact between the French and British general staffs. It was said Lloyd George probably would accept all but the third and fourth of these suggestions. The fourth would amount to a guarantee for Poland. In asking that the dura-

tion of the alliance be unlimited, France explains that Germany will not be recovered sufficiently to attack within ten years. Presumably she also takes into consideration the fact that the plebiscite in the Sarre valley will not take place until 1934.

UNLESS Peking is unexpectedly stubborn, the Shantung question should be settled very shortly, enabling the arms conference to adjourn sine die. Through the efforts of Secretary Hughes and Mr. Balfour a compromise plan was arranged last week and cabled to Tokyo and Peking for acceptance. Under this proposal Japan gives up her demand that the railway be paid for through a loan by Japanese bankers, and in return China agrees to the retention of a Japanese traffic manager and accountant during the period of payment. The road is to be purchased by China with treasury notes payable at option five to fifteen years hence. Japan's acceptance of this plan was believed certain, and President Harding himself appealed to Minister Sze to induce Peking to approve of the agreement.

The committee on far eastern affairs concluded its consideration of the Siberian question, and Japan is left upon her honor to remove her troops from that country as soon as the re-establishment of political stability makes it safe to do so. Through Baron Shidehara she gave a virtual pledge to do this, and it was recorded in the minutes of the meeting. After fully explaining the present retention of Japanese troops in Siberia, the baron concluded:

"Nothing is further from the thought of the Japanese government than to take advantage of the present helpless condition of Russia to prosecute selfish designs."

"The military occupation of the Russian province of Sakhalin is only a temporary measure."

In conclusion, the Japanese delegation is authorized to declare that it is the fixed and settled policy of Japan to respect the territorial integrity of Russia, and to observe the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of that country."

The gentlemen from the China government must perform be content with this, and it may be said that there is no apparent reason to doubt the good faith of Japan in the matter.

The four powers signatory to the Pacific treaty have agreed to an exchange of notes defining the treaty as not applicable to the mainland of Japan. Whether this includes the Bonin and Loochoo islands, as Japan wishes, is not yet known.

All three of the chief parties in the Japanese diet, which opened last week, are on record as approving the results of the Washington conference.

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THREE hundred delegates to the agricultural conference called by Secretary Wallace were in session in Washington, and considerable friction developed during their deliberations. The farmers bluntly set forth their woes, and President Harding and Mr. Wallace let them know that the conclusions reached by the conference would form the basis for a drive by the administration to obtain for them relief measures from congress. Not only temporary relief will be asked, but measures that shall so stabilize agriculture that there will be greater remuneration for the farmer and lower prices for the consumer. Before the conference had been in session two days insurgency made its appearance. Some delegates declared the purpose of those responsible for the meeting was the destruction of the agricultural bloc in congress. Making the same charge, the Farmers' National council started a conference of its own on Friday.

necessary treaties are negotiated.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MELLON told the house ways and means committee that additional taxation to yield \$850,000,000 in the next two years would be necessary to make the initial payments of the proposed \$3,200,000,000 cash bonus to former service men. He also condemned as futile, unwise and imprudent the plan of Chairman Fordney to finance the bonus from the sale of the refunded foreign war debts. All payments of principal and interest on those debts, he said, should go toward retirement of Liberty bonds and payment of interest on them. Notwithstanding Mr. Mellon's warning, the majority leaders in congress decided that a bonus bill should originate in the house and be pressed to passage at once. Fordney still clings to his foreign debt plan, but Mellon's talk led to a revival of the proposed sales tax.

PRESIDENT HARDING has given hearty approval to the St. Lawrence waterway project, and under his direction Secretary of State Hughes already is negotiating with the government of Great Britain for a treaty under which the United States and Canada can undertake the project jointly. The report of the international joint commission, which was made to the house, caused a sharp parliamentary fight. Several committees claimed jurisdiction over it, but Speaker Gillett ordered it referred to the interstate and foreign commerce committee, and later the ways and means committee was given joint consideration of it. Opponents of the project, mostly from Atlantic coast states, made a futile effort to have the report turned over to the rivers and harbors committee, which is counted as hostile to the project. Probably there will be no action on it.

CHILE is not very enthusiastic over the meeting in Washington with Peru to settle their differences. She accepted the invitation but now says she will not take part if Bolivia is allowed to be represented. The leading Chilean newspaper says it must be stipulated that negotiations shall not alter the terms of the Antcon treaty. The appointment of the Chilean representative has been deferred by the cabinet.

MENTION should be made of the death of Viscount Bryce, former British ambassador to Washington. He was an eminent man of letters and publicist and was so warm an admirer of the United States that he was sometimes called an "English Yankee." His work entitled "The American Commonwealth" has been a textbook in the schools of this country for many years.

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